Rehabilitation of gas leak victims

438. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of victims of the gas leak at M/s Union Carbide plant in Bhopal, showing number of deaths due to leakage of the poisonous gas since day one, those rendered incapacitated and persons receiving medical treatments, including those born post-gas leak with physical/ genetic deformities, separately;

(b) the details of compensation disbursed, if any, to the victims and its mode;

(c) the measures taken, if any, for rehabilitation of those crippled for life and those rendered chronically ill; and

(d) the details of funds recovered from M/s Union Carbide as penalty or otherwise for their failure in preventing the incident?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) The number of death claims amongst the victims of Bhopal Gas Leak Disaster of 2nd/3rd December, 1984, granted compensation till 30th June, 2006 is 15,326. The number of persons awarded compensation for injuries is 5,58,109, as per the information provided by the Office of the Welfare Commissioner, Bhopal Gas Victims, Bhopal. All these gas victims are receiving medical treatment in the six hospitals set up for their rehabilitation, free of cost. Indian Council of Medical Research had conducted a study regarding congenital deformities but the number of cases of congenital malformation was found to be normal, as compared to the National rate. The Centre for Rehabilitation Studies with the help of Indira Gandhi Mahila Aivam Balya Chikitsalaya has been carrying out a study to understand the congenital malformation pattern among the new borns. Except a few cases the incidence of congenital malformation has not been found in almost 4000 deliveries being conducted at this hospital every year.

(b) An amount of Rs. 1544.35 crore has been disbursed as compensation till 30.6.2006 amongst 5,72,942 claimants in the form of original compensation. Further, *vide* orders of the Supreme Court dated 19th July, 2004 and 26th October, 2004, the amount lying unutilized with the Reserve Bank of India accruing on account of interest earnings

and exchange rate variation is being disbursed on pro-rata basis in the ratio of 1:1 to all the claimants of original compensation. As on 14.7.2006, 5,55,632 claimants had received Rs. 1488.06 crore as pro-rata compensation and the disbursal process is continuing.

(c) All the gas victims having health problems are getting treatment at the speciality and super specialty Hospitals set up for the medical rehabilitation of the gas victims. The Cancer patients are receiving free treatment at the Bhopal Memorial Hospital and Research Centre (BMHRC) as well as at the Jawaharlal Nehru Cancer Hospital at Bhopal. All the Cardiac patients at BMHRC who require surgical interventions are getting complete operative treatment, free of cost. The patients with Cataract are getting free intraocular lens implantation (IOL). Other chronically ill patients are being treated at the Hospitals under the Bhopal Gas Tragedy, Relief and Rehabilitation Department and also at the BMHRC.

(d) Under the order and settlement award of the Supreme Court of India dated 14th and 15th February, 1989 respectively, an amount of US $ 470 Million was paid by Union Carbide Corporation (UCC), USA as compensation for the victims of Bhopal Gas Leak Disaster. In addition, the Court of the Chief Judicial Magistrate, Bhopal issued attachment order of 1,65,84,750 shares of Union Carbide India Limited (UCIL) held by UCC on 30th April, 1992. The Supreme Court *Vide* its directions dated 14th February, 1994 modified the attachment order of these shares so as to permit their sale. Out of the sale proceeds, after deducting the expenses incurred for the sale such as commission, stamp duty, capital gains tax and other incidentals, a sum of Rs. 117 crore became available for construction, equipping and maintenance of the Bhopal Memorial Hospital and Research Centre.

Health camps and drug price control

439. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that pharma companies who conduct health care programmes for poor in rural areas would not be allowed to charge higher on price controlled medicines;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and